

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1532

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, SCUL, CH, AS, NZ

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION IN AUSTRALIA
AND NEW ZEALAND

REF: STATE 52718 (NOTAL)

1. ON MARCH 20, USLO OFFICER RAISED WITH AUSTRALIAN CHARGE COTTRILL THE POSSIBILITY THAT PRC MIGHT ORGANIZE A THIRD ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION TO BE SENT TO AUSTRALIA (REFTEL). COTTRILL SAID THE QUESTION WAS BEING DISCUSSED WITH THE CHINESE BUT INDICATED THE TWO SIDES WERE FAR FROM AGREEMENT ON THE PROPOSAL. COTTRILL SAID MAJOR PROBLEM FROM THEIR SIDE WAS EXPENSE INVOLVED IN SHIPPING AN EXHIBITION TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. AS WITH OTHER EXHIBITS, CHINESE ARE REQUIRING THAT RECEIVING COUNTRY PAY INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING COSTS FOR AIR TRANSPORT. COTTRILL ALSO SAID NO ONE IN AUSTRALIA "WOULD BE BROKENHEARTED" IF CHINESE DID NOT SEND EXHIBIT AND INDICATED THAT BEING LAST IN LINE WAS ALSO A FACTOR.

2. CANADIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR EVANS ALSO DISCUSSED POSSIBLE AUSTRALIAN EXHIBIT WITH CHINESE DURING SIGNING CEREMONY FOR CANADIAN EXHIBITION. CHINESE ACKNOWLEDGED THEY WERE CONSIDERING ORGANIZING A THIRD EXHIBIT FOR AUSTRALIA. THEY NOTED THAT EUROPEAN SHOW HAD BEEN THE
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LARGEST BECAUSE IT WAS FIRST. JAPANESE SHOW WAS SMALLER

BECAUSE IT WAS DIFFICULT TO COLLECT APPROPRIATE ITEMS.
A THIRD SHOW, THEY SAID, WOULD BE EVEN MORE DIFFICULT. CHINESE
SAID PROVINCIAL RESISTANCE TO RELEASING ITEMS FROM THEIR
COLLECTIONS WAS A MAJOR PROBLEM.

3. COMMENT: FROM THE LUKEWARM COMMENTS ON BOTH SIDES IT DOES
NOT APPEAR THAT A THIRD EXHIBIT WILL BE ORGANIZED SOON, AND
IF IT IS ORGANIZED, IT PROBABLY WILL BE RATHER SMALL.
JENKINS

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